

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 /050 W

-----022658 131113Z /21

R 111237Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5122

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SHUM

SUBJECT: VISIT BY BURUNDI PRESIDENT

SUMMARY: AS PROMISED, HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON RECENT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS HABYARIMANA AND BAGAZA. IN BRIEF, WARM EXCHANGES AND DECLARATIONS OF COMMON OBJECTIVES SIGNAL THIS AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN IMPROVING RELATIONS. CONCILIATORY STANCES ON BILATERAL ISSUES COUPLED WITH MODERATE POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS DEMONSTRATE THAT KIGALI AND BUJUMBURA ARE AT A JUNCTION WHERE CLOSER COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE. INDEED, BOTH LEADERS STRONGLY ENDORSED INCREASED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN TIES BETWEEN THEIR NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. KIGALI AND BUJUMBURA APPARENTLY WANTED AUG 1-3 VISIT BY BURUNDIS NEW LEADER, PRESIDENT BAGAZA, TO PAVE WAY FOR WARMER RELATIONS. ON THORNY ISSUE OF HUTU-TUTSI FRICTION, BOTH LEADERS EXUDED CONFIDENCE THAT A NEW DAWN HAD ARISEN. DURING HIS TOAST AT THE WELCOMING BANQUET, PRES HABYARIMANA HAILED PRES BAGAZA'S "UNSTINTING EFFORTS TO CREATE A SOCIETY WHERE THE RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND WELL BEING ARE RESPECTED." PRESIDENT BAGAZA, IN TURN, PICKED UP THE BATON AND DECLARED HIS COMMITMENT TO A POLICY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE THAT "WILL ELIMINATE ALL THE INEQUITIES

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INHERITED FROM THE FORMER REGIME." HE PRAISED PRES HABYARIMANA AS THE MAN WHOSE EFFORTS AND "AID" HAD PUT BILATERAL RELATIONS ON THE RIGHT TRACK. THROUGHOUT HIS STATEMENTS, PRES BAGAZA CAST RWANDA IN THE ROLE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY EXPERIMENT BURUNDI WISHED TO EMULATE AND BAGAZA OFTEN HAILED RWANDA'S EXAMPLES IN FOSTERING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OVERCOMING REGIONALISM. TONE AND CONTENT OF HIS ATTACKS AGAINST THE FAILINGS OF THE FORMER BURUNDI REGIME

("FAILURE TO CARE FOR THE LITTLE PEOPLE") ECHOED DECLARATIONS MADE BY PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA AFTER SEIZING POWER. BAGAZA CALLED FOR CLOSER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTACTS BETWEEN BOTH NATIONS AND SPECIFIED THAT THIS CONTACT SHOULD TAKE PLACE "AT ALL LEVELS."

2. ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT, THERE WAS LITTLE DISAGREEMENT. BOTH LEADERS TOOK NATIONALIST BUT RELATIVELY MODERATE STANCES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES. CONCERNING RHODESIA, THEY CONDEMNED IAN SMITH FOR IGNORING UN AND OAU RECOMMENDATIONS AND PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT FOR "THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE." ON NAMIBIA, THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR RECOGNITION OF SWAPO AS "THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE." SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICIES OF APARTHEID AND BANTUSTANIZATION WERE STRONGLY DENOUNCED, BUT NEITHER CALLED FOR ECONOMIC BLOCKADE.

3. PRES HABYARIMANA WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER PROGRESSIVE-MODERATE SPLIT WHICH HE BELIEVES CAME CLOSE TO WRECKING THE RECENT OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE. HIS APPEAL FOR UNITY AND NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES WAS STRONGLY ENDORSED BY PRES BAGAZA. BAGAZA, IN TURN, SPECIFIED TO HIS BANQUET AUDIENCE THAT BURUNDI'S NON-ALIGNMENT WILL NOT BE CONDITIONED BY "MODERATE" OR "PROGRESSIVE" BLINDERS, BUT WILL REFLECT BURUNDI'S INTERESTS AND GOALS AS DETERMINED BY BURUNDI.

4. ONE SUBTLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION DID SURFACE DURING THE VISIT. BAGAZA'S PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE "PEOPLE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EASTERN SAHARA", PRESUMABLY POLISARIO, WAS NOT PICKED UP BY HABYARIMANA AND FAILED TO FIND A NICHE IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

5. IN THEIR TALKS AND STATEMENTS BOTH HOST AND GUEST PAID CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. PRES HABYARIMANA REVEALED THAT CEPGL, THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREATL LAKES COUNTRIES (RWANDA-BURUNDI-ZAIRE,) WILL BE HOLDING A SUMMIT NEXT MONTH IN BUJUMBURA. HE NOTED WITH PRIDE CEPGL'S LATEST ACHIEVEMENTS, NAMELY, THE SELECTION OF AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT AND THE DECISION OF THE U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA TO OPEN A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTER AT THE COMMUNITY'S GISENYI HEADQUARTERS. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, WHILE REFERRING TO THE MORAL SUPPORT HIS GOVT GAVE ZAIRE DURING THE SHABA INVASION, PRES BAGAZA ALLUDED TO A MUTUAL SECURITY AGREEMENT CONTAINED IN THE CEPGL CONVENTION (OF WHICH WE WERE UNAWARE), BUT HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

6. ACCORDING TO HABYARIMANA, IN THEIR PRIVATE TALKS HE FOCUSED ON THE NEW IMAGE OF OCAM IN AN EFFORT TO EXPAND MEMBERSHIP. THE OCAM IMAGE HE PRESENTED WAS ONE OF A REVITALIZED ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS SHED ITS "FRENCH COLONIALIST BLANKET." BAGAZA GAVE NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER HE WAS PERSUADED BY HIS HOST'S PRESENTATION.

7. SENSITIVITY TO PRES BAGAZA'S PRECARIOUS POSITION AT HOME MAY HAVE PROMPTED HABYARIMANA'S PARTING WISH THAT BAGAZA'S ASSOCIATES "WOULD AID HIM IN IMPLEMENTING HIS DECLARATIONS" SINCE "ONE CANNOT WORK ALL ALONE."

8. AT THE CLOSE OF THE VISIT, HABYARIMANA ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL BE PAYING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BURUNDI ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE.

9. DRAFTER: POL/BRENNAN  
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